

**REMARKS**

**Summary of the Office Action**

Claim 23 stands objected because of informalities.

Claims 5-7, 13, 20, and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Claims 1, 9-15, 17-20 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over USPN 6,452,590 to *Awamoto et al.* in view of USPN 6,323,829 to *Hosoi et al.*

Claims 2-4, 8, 16, and 21-22 are allowed.

Claims 5-7, and 23-24 stand be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

**Summary of the Response**

Claims 1, 9-14, 18-20 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 5-7, 13, 15, 17, 20 and 23-24 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 2-8, 15-17, and 21-24 are presently pending.

**The Objection to Claim 23**

Claim 23 stands objected because of informalities. Applicant has amended claim 23 in accordance with the comments of the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 23 be withdrawn.

**The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, Second Paragraph**

Claims 5-7, 13, 20, and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicant respectfully asserts that the informalities noted by the

Examiner do not rise to the level of indefiniteness. However, Applicant has amended claims 5-7, 13, 20, and 23-24 in accordance with the comments of the Examiner to modify the noted informalities. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn. In addition, Applicant respectfully asserts that these amendments do not narrow the intended scope of the claims. Accordingly, Applicant does not intend to acquiesce any subject matter by these amendment.

**The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)**

Claims 1, 9-15, 17-20 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over USPN 6,452,590 to *Awamoto et al.* in view of USPN 6,323,829 to *Hosoi et al.* To facilitate allowance of the present application, claims 1, 9-14, 18-20 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 15 and 17 have been amended to depend from allowed independent claim 16. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application, withdrawal of all rejections and objections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 041514-5367

Application No.: 09/739,789

Page 12

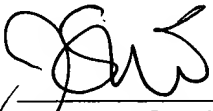
37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**

Dated: December 28, 2004

By:

 Reg. No 33,818  
Robert J. Goodell  
Registration No. 41,040

Customer No. 09629

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**

1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20004

Telephone: (202) 739-3000

Facsimile: (202) 739-3001